

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING TASK FORCE
Thursday, April 14, 2005
Earl Bennett Building
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Others</u>
Dennis Hester Joe Russell Jim Patrick Bill Shaw Karen Reeves Peggy Goodrich Kerry Finely Diana Blend Mike Pence Mike Meehan Don Hines Richard Surynt Cris Coughlin Myrt Webb Jerry Nix Tom Jentz	Tad Rosenberry Jed Fisher Velvet Phillips-Sullivan Gary Marks Turner Askew Jane Leivo	Lex Blood Russ Crowder Dave Skinner Mayre Flowers

Agenda Approval

Kennedy made a motion to approve the Agenda, as amended. Russell seconded the motion. All in favor

Minutes Approval

Hester made a motion to approve the April 14, 2005 minutes, as presented. Kennedy seconded the motion. All in favor.

Planning Consultant Update

B.J. reported that the planning office has hired a consultant to write a detailed scope of work. This consultant will be in Kalispell on May 9 through May 11. During this time he would like to schedule a meeting between the Task Force and the consultant. Hines added that the Planning Board is meeting with the consultant during this time. After discussion, it was agreed that B.J. would put together a time and place for the meeting and notify everybody.

Vision Process

Ned Cooney facilitated this portion of the meeting to assist the group in developing a set of values and a vision statement. His first question to the group was what are the critical elements of effectively managed growth in Flathead County. This was discussed in small groups. The main concerns were as follows:

- Avoiding Rural Sprawl
- Collaborative Planning & Decision Making
- Delivering Effective Public Safety
- Delivering Cost-Effective Public Services
- Developing a Superior Transportation Network
- Providing & Preserving Recreational Areas
- Balanced & Diversified Economy
- Maintain & Preserve Environmental Quality

Cooney will compile all of the comments and put together a draft vision statement for review by the Task Force.

Adoption of By-Laws

Due to the fact that not all of the members have had an opportunity to review the By-Laws, it was agreed that they would be adopted at the next meeting.

Committee Work Plans

Nix prepared a draft work plan concept timeline to accomplish the adoption of a Growth Plan by October 2006. One of the tasks is to review committee assignments and compile all of the necessary information for the consultant by the May 9 meeting. This information includes, among other things, the current growth policy and the 1994 white pages. He plans to have this information converted to a disk. Nix has already put together a disk containing growth plans from other counties. The disk also contains reference documents. This disk was handed out to all members of the Task Force.

Discussion turned to how the existing information should be compiled and how the committees can use this information. It is important to determine what information is already available so the committees have access to this information, which includes maps, traffic plans, bike path plans, road information, will also be provided to the consultant. A Human Resource List has also been put together so each committee has a list of people available to assist in obtaining information.

Russell felt that it would be a good idea to talk about the scope of work and how this Task Force can work with the consultant. The Commissioners are working on going through all of their information and putting a catalog together. He added that the three cities need to get their water and sewer plans together so the consultant can see them.

The Task Force needs some contact with the committees before the May 9 meeting so they can identify these resources and bring them to the table when the consultant gets here to assist in moving this process forward.

Nix suggested that the committee schedule be task oriented rather than time schedule due to everybody's busy schedules. This allows an opportunity to accomplish a task that fits the schedule of the members. The committee should then get back together with this group so they can keep track of what the committees are doing.

Hines noted that there is a lot of text already on a disk and ready for the meeting with the consultant. He didn't think there was that much work to do compared to the public perception and all of this information gathering might not be necessary.

Nix felt that they need to come up with a consolidated inventory, to include the current growth policy and the while papers, studies that have been done, exhibits, anything that anybody thinks might be helpful to the consultant.

Shaw stated that the vision statement would assist in determining what the growth policy will accomplish. Everything in this policy should be taken into account that it will take them one step closer to the vision statement. This is a chance for the Task Force to give the Planning Board their concept of the issues prior to the public document being prepared.

Russell felt that there are some members who don't have a clear understanding of what they are doing or what they can do. This group can apply the vision and create values to apply to the growth policy. The Planning Board is very receptive to the Task Force and the knowledge that can be integrated into the growth policy. He reminded everybody that Flathead County is a unique county and it is difficult to plan in this type of environment.

Nix asked for the assignments to be completed two weeks from today. The assignments are 1) write down the issues; 2) review any inventory items and identify resource materials; 3) look at Human Resource list and suggest names that might be helpful to committee; 4) deliver this information to County Commissioners two weeks from today.

It was agreed that the committees might have to meet sometime within this two week prior and lead people were assigned to each committee as follows:

Transportation Committee – Cal Scott and Don Hines
Bike Paths – Tom Jentz and Peggy Goodrich
Natural Resources/Parks & Recreation – Karen Reeves
Future Zoning – Diana Blend
Water & Sewer – Joe Russell
Police/Emergency Services – Mike Meehan
Community Education – Diana Blend

Patrick stated that the City of Kalispell invited the County Commissioners to an open dialogue session to discuss areas that the city and county would like to work together. A list was prepared of these areas of concern and short and long range goals were then discussed. Patrick provided this information to the Task Force.

Public Comment Period

Mayre Flowers stated that she continues to be pleased to see the work going on within this Task Force and very much supports and encourages the process. If you look at any policy in the state, they started out with a list of issues, a list of goals, and policies to implement these goals. What this Task Force is going is important to the community.

Dave Skinner asked about the make-up of the members of the Task Force wondering how many members are either past or present public employees. He noted that there was no mention of property rights in the vision statement process. This group needs to keep in mind their vision. Property is the biggest investment for most people. He asked that this group consider this throughout their process.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.